The First Egg

How To Keep Dignity In A Heaven

A Short Story

By

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How To Quote From Books?

Whenever you want to quote something from a book, use the page number, line number and word number.

So, the three basic numbers are,

1. Page Number
2. Line Number
3. Word number

Please note that the “Line Number” in here is the line number of a page. All valid lines should at least include one word in it. Also, line numbering does not count the header, footer or any footnote in that page. So, out of the content of that page, starting with number 1 from top to bottom, any line with at least one word in it, is a valid line.

Also note that the word number is, the number of the word in a line. In each line, word count starts with number 1 from left to right.

Based on the published versions, there are two additional numbers to consider when quoting from a book. Those are,

1. Edition Number (You may use the ISBN or ASIN if editions have separate numbers)
2. Volume Number

Please read this whole section to the end to read about the explanation on how to use these numbers to quote from a book.

Let's look at basic ways of quoting something from the book. For example, if I want to quote the word "*Book*" in the title of this section, then you may quote it as follows,

"*The First Egg: Page i: Line 1: Word 5*" or "*The First Egg: i:1:5*". This is equal to the word "*Book*".

If you want to quote the whole title of this section at once, then use a word range from the first word to the last word of the title as follows,

"*The First Egg: Page i: Line 1: Word 1 to Page i: Line 1: Word 5*" or "*The First Egg: i:1:1—i:1:5*". This quotation is the same as quoting the sentence: "*How to Quote from Books?*"

In the same way, you may quote as many words, lines and pages as needed at once.

To quote a range of pages, use the following method,

"*The First Egg: Page i to Page vi*" or "*The First Egg: i—vi*". This is equal to the six pages which contain this whole section called "*How to Quote from Books?*".

Similarly, to quote specific pages, you may use the following method (you may include multiple page numbers separated by commas.),

"*The First Egg: Page i, Page vi*" or "*The First Egg: i, vi*". This quote is equal to two pages numbered '*i*' and '*vi*' which contains the first and the last page of this section on "*How To Quote From Books?*". You may also use a combination of comma-separated page numbers and page ranges to quote everything you want at once.

Similarly, to quote a paragraph or any range of lines, use the following format.

"*The First Egg: Page i: Line 2 to Page i: Line 3*" or "*The First Egg: i:2—i:3*". This is equal to the first paragraph of this section which has only two lines.

Also, to quote specific lines, you may use the following method (you may include multiple line numbers separated by commas.),

"*The First Egg: Page i: Line 2, Line 3*" or "*The First Egg: i:2,3*". This quote also equals to the two lines which contain the first paragraph of this section. You may also use a combination of comma-separated line numbers and line ranges to quote everything you want at once.

So, the most complex form of a quote you can make with this method is to point to some content in a book that starts with one specific word and ends with another specific word, as follows,

"*The First Egg: Page i: Line 2: Word 1 to Page i: Line 03: Word 8*" or "*The First Egg: i:2:1—i:3:8*". This quote also

equals to the first paragraph of this section which only has two lines.

This manner of quoting will make sure everyone from everywhere refers to the same content of a book while quoting from its content.

If there are multiple editions of a book, then you may also mention the edition number along with the title of the book itself. For example, to quote from the first edition of the book, use the following method,

"*The First Egg—First Edition: Page i: Line 2: Word 1 to Page i: Line 03: Word 8*" or "*The First Egg—1st Ed.: i:2:1—i:3:8*". This quote also equal to the first paragraph of this section called "*How To Quote From Books?*" in the first edition of this book titled "*The First Egg*".

Similarly, if you are reading a split edition, which means a book that is published in multiple volumes, then please refer to the volume number after the edition number. For example, to quote from the first volume of the first edition, use the following method,

How To Quote From Books?

"*The First Egg—First Edition—Volume I: Page i: Line 2: Word 1 to Page i: Line 03: Word 8*" or "*The First Egg—1st Ed.—Vol. I: i:2:1—i:3:8*". This quote also equal to the first paragraph of this section called "*How To Quote From Books?*" in the first volume of the first edition of this book titled "*The First Egg*".

Alternatively, if the editions have separate identification numbers, then you may use the ISBN number or the ASIN number instead of the edition number to quote from a specific edition of the book.

Please note that when the edition number is not present along with the title of the book, consider that quote is from the first edition of the book. Therefore, whoever is quoting from a later edition of the book other than the first edition must include the edition number or edition name along with the title of the book. This is a must when someone is quoting from a book using this method.

About This Book

This is a short story about the life of a newborn god in a heavenly realm who's trying to find his place in the community.

Do gods compete in heaven?
Do they have notions of seniority & hierarchy?

These are some interesting questions this new god has to figure out if he is to secure a place in his community. His new life has suddenly become an issue of the dignity of a god.

The First Egg is one of the many short stories in a short story collection which belongs to another book yet to be published. I hope this short story might draw your attention to the upcoming book and you will become more curious about what the actual book is all about!

About This Book

This is the fourth out of six thought-provoking short stories to be released before the main book. Each short story will reveal and discuss certain aspects of current social issues and trends. Starting from April 2019, each book will be released bimonthly within the first week of the month.

Dedication

I Dedicate This Book To Everyone
And Everything That Is Existing,
Ever Existed And Will Someday
Come Into Existence.

[Author intentionally left this page blank]

The First Egg

How To Keep Dignity In A Heaven

Once upon a time, there was a new God, a one who recently became a God, who has nothing much to do. He had no work and he was up to nothing important. To be honest, he was a bit bored with his life as a God. He went to heaven's park and started contemplating on interesting things he could do as a God. Suddenly he got an idea.

He wanted to get hold of the first egg of a new chicken. He is a vegan God, so he didn't want to eat it but still he wanted to get hold of the first egg of a chicken which started laying eggs for the first time.

He looked everywhere on the planet but couldn't find a suitable way to get hold of the first egg without detecting.

So, he made this his mission and started to plan ahead. He found the best chicken on the planet at that time and then he made a five hundred year plan to get hold of the first egg of a certain chicken descending form that best chicken he just found. He predicted the lineage of that chicken and knew that in five hundred years, he can definitely get hold of that first egg of that chicken without detection. He knew about where all others will be and planned the way to get hold of a human body for that purpose alone.

He started tracing the ways of that best chicken he just found and started monitoring it. He protected that chicken with all his power and kept it away from harm's way. He made the necessary arrangement secretly by himself produce the next generation of that chicken. Then he picked the one that is responsible for the chicken he is planning to get to and started protecting that chicken from harm's way and arranged ways to produce its next generations well.

In this way, he protected the whole lineage of that last chicken one generation after the other. He did this perfectly without detecting and no one suspected him. Most

probably everyone knew that he is a vegan and no one really cared about what he was up to because they had their own plans. From heaven, he manipulated humans to do his bidding but never came down to earth to do it by himself because it is a bit difficult that it looks.

So, thirty years before the last chicken's birth, he selected some human parents who would produce a child who would die at birth but if he didn't die would work in the same farm that his last chicken would grow. Then he managed to get himself into that child and prevented from dying. In reality, the child was dead but he kept the baby alive as himself. He managed to get in and out of that body as he wishes. So, he always comes out of the body when he sleeps like the baby. In this way, he lived a double life as a God and a human child.

He lived the whole thirty years of human lives for that one purpose of getting into the farm that chicken will be born. He walked, he started speaking, he went to school and did everything as a human would do but he had a plan for his life. He knew his purpose of living like this human.

After thirty years, he managed to secure a job on the farm as its manager's assistant. Since then he was awaiting the chicken's birth and it's the first egg. He slept in the office when he needed to get out and make necessary arrangements to protect the lineage. So, whenever, there is a possible threat, he used a secret place on the farm to sleep. In this way, he used both God powers and the human body to protect the lineage of that chicken.

Finally, the last chicken was born and he was relieved because after this he doesn't have to protect or work this hard to protect a chicken of another generation. He worked day and night while managing his both human and God lives perfectly well. He protected this chicken with his life and didn't' allow anyone to buy off this chicken from the farm. He made sure the chicken will not get picked for any other purpose than laying eggs. After some time of this hard work, the chicken came of age t lay eggs. He predicted and planned the date and time this chicken would lay its first egg.

In the morning of the day that this person would lay the first egg the God woke up in his human body and left to

work. After he reached the farm he made sure to take the chicken out of the normal area and place it in a special area he prepared for it. Then he waited till the time and went to his secret place and fell asleep. Again he woke up as a God and made the final few arrangements to make sure no one gets to that chicken on that particular time. He used his powers to delay and deviate employees and other visitors away from the place he arranged for that chicken.

It is almost time and he went back to his staying place in heaven to fell asleep and gets back to his human body but just before he get there a messenger came and asked him to come with him to see a senior God. He couldn't say no and he quickly followed the messenger. It was a mundane matter of not attending one of that senior God's events day before, which that senior God has arranged for all other Gods. He knew that he was in his human body while the event was happening, so, he said that he visited earth for an urgent matter and that is why he couldn't attend. He couldn't lie but he couldn't tell the truth either. So, he didn't mention what he was up to in details. After some time the senior God pardoned him and asked him not to do

that again. He promised the senior God that he wouldn't ever miss such an event and left the place.

He quickly returned to his place and fell asleep and woke up in his human body at the farm. He knew the time has passed but he knew he arranged everything well before so that no person would get there before he does. He ran to the place the entered the pace where he kept the chicken.

As he enters the place, he saw that someone else is already there. This person is sitting on a small chair next to a portable cooker and on top of the cooker, there was a pan heating up with some oil in it.

[The Junior God]

"Who are you?"

[The Stranger]

"Oh! Hey, I was waiting for you."

[The Junior God]

"Why?"

[The Stranger]

"To thank you."

[The Junior God]

“Thank me! For what?”

[The Stranger]

“For protecting this chicken’s lineage and first egg.”

[The Junior God]

“How did you know that?”

[The Stranger]

“Oh! I’m the one who made you do that.”

[The Junior God]

“What?”

[The Stranger]

“Please come and have a seat.”

This stranger showed him another small chair next to the place. He slowly and carefully walked there and sat on it.

[The Junior God]

“Who are you?”

[The Stranger]

“I’m the Second-Egg-God, most Gods know me with that name and today I’m going to promote myself.”

[The Junior God]

“What?”

[The Second-Egg-God]

“I’m the one who eats the second egg of all the chicken and I’ve been doing that for aeons now.”

[The Junior God]

“What this has to do with me? How do you know me?”

[The Second-Egg-God]

“I wanted to beat the First-Egg-God, but I couldn’t do it without making him notice it. So, I made a plan and I used you for my plan. When you were wondering what to do a few hundred years ago, I’m the one who put the thought of getting to the first egg of a chicken. So, I can get to the first egg before the First-Egg-God. You are the perfect person to do the job and I’m glad that you did it well. Please take the first egg from over there and give it to me.”

The God couldn't get his head around with what just happened and he walked to the chicken and picked the first egg under it and slowly walked back and gave it to the senior Second-Egg-God.

The Second-Egg-God broke it and put it on to the pan and cooked it in the best way he could. Then he put it on a plate and prepared himself to eat it. The other God was staring at him speechlessly and finally asked,

[The Junior God]

"Now what happens?"

[The Second-Egg-God]

"There is nothing to happen, you wanted to hold the first egg and I gave that chance to you. I didn't touch the egg until you get here. So, your mission is complete. You won because got hold of the first egg of this chicken and now, because of you I am about to win and beat the First-Egg-God. You may depart now"

The god was shocked and stayed still for a few moments and asked,

[The Junior God]

“At least, can I get a bite out of it?”

[The Second-Egg-God]

“I thought you are a vegan.”

[The Junior God]

“Yeah, until now. I just gave it up.”

Before saying anything the Second-Egg-God ate the fried egg and finished it without leaving anything on the plate. Then he said,

[The New First-Egg-God]

“OK, I didn’t plan for this, I thought you would accept the win and depart happily. I wanted to come clean and that is why I explained the whole thing before you leave.”

Then the newly appointed First-Egg-God walked to the chicken and picked the second egg under it. Then he came to his chair and started cooking it the same way he did with the first. Then he took another plate and put it on there and offered to the other God, and said,

[The New First-Egg-God]

“I didn’t plan to do this, but here you go. I’m making you the new Second-Egg-God from now on. You can have it before you leave.”

The God was a bit annoyed and he took a bite out of the egg and that was the first time he ate something other than a vegan food in a long time. He lost his vegan stated and became the Second-Egg-God. Then he asked,

[The New Second-Egg-God]

“What happens to the previous First-Egg-God now?”

[The New First-Egg-God]

“He just lost, that is why he didn’t come here. He is already ashamed and he doesn’t like to be the second of anything. So, now he’d be trying to find something else that he can become the first all the time. Poor fellow! I’m going to visit him and see his face soon after this.”

The new First-Egg-God happily said. The other newly appointed Second-Egg-God finished eating his fried egg and asked,

[The New Second-Egg-God]

“So, how did you two started this competition?”

[The New First-Egg-God]

“It was a funny story. Aeons ago, when people in that time started discovering different ways to eat, the First-Egg-God wanted to teach them how to eat chicken eggs. So, he predicted and planned this event a few hundred years ago before people started eating chicken eggs. However, he wanted to be the one who eats the first egg of all chicken after that. So, he made me want the first egg of that first chicken so that I would protect the first chicken’s lineage and its first egg before his arrival. I did that perfectly and when I get to the place to collect the first egg he was already there with the first egg of that chicken. He ate the first one and explained to me what happened, then he offered me the second egg. I was angry about it because I worked so hard to protect that chicken’s lineage and the first egg. That is how we started this rivalry and since then we were competing for the first egg of all chicken. Today, after all that time, I won, thanks to you.”

[The New Second-Egg-God]

“What?”

[The New First-Egg-God]

“Oh shit!”

About The Author

Nuwan Wijayaweera (1984) was born in Kurunegala, Sri Lanka. He is a Sri Lankan IT professional who worked for various Sri Lankan and Australian companies since 2008. He wrote posts and articles since 2014 and he has written many blog posts since then. Now he is working on his first major book, which contains logs from his life events and his personal philosophy towards life.